

**Mike Parry**

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**Senate**

State of Minnesota

December 15, 2011

Chancellor Steven J. Rosenstone  
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities  
30 7th St. E., Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Chancellor Rosenstone,

Several media outlets are reporting on the alleged excessive retirement payouts of Minnesota state workers. As you are aware, Minnesota State Colleges and University (MnSCU) officials were highlighted as receiving 18 of the 20 largest payouts statewide. As the new chair of the Subcommittee on Employee Relations, I am writing to urge that you place limitations on retirement payouts in your next contract.

I have reviewed your contract agreement and the subsequent legislative review and approval. In 2009, your current agreement was submitted to the Subcommittee on Employee Relations, chaired by Representative Leon Lillie (DFL- North St. Paul) with vice-chair Senator Jim Metzen (DFL- South St. Paul). The subcommittee met June 29, 2009 and rubber stamped several agreements, including MnSCU's administrative plan, over a period of one hour and forty minutes. The contract sailed through the legislature despite me and thirteen other Senate Republicans voting in the negative.

In 2010, Minnesota voters sent a message that unchecked spending is no longer acceptable. The new members of the Subcommittee on Employee Relations will be closely scrutinizing agreements for appropriate compensation levels. Upon submission of your next agreement, all parties will be invited to provide more information, details, suggestions and context. If reforms and improvements are not made in the interest of protecting the taxpayers, such as vacation or sick time caps or payout limits, we retain authority to modify the contract.

At our first hearing, members made clear we will be as proactive as possible in scrutinizing these contracts. We look forward to a thorough review of your next agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Parry", written over a circular scribble.

Senator Mike Parry

